



Special HMPV ICU Ward Set Up in Jammu

Why in News?

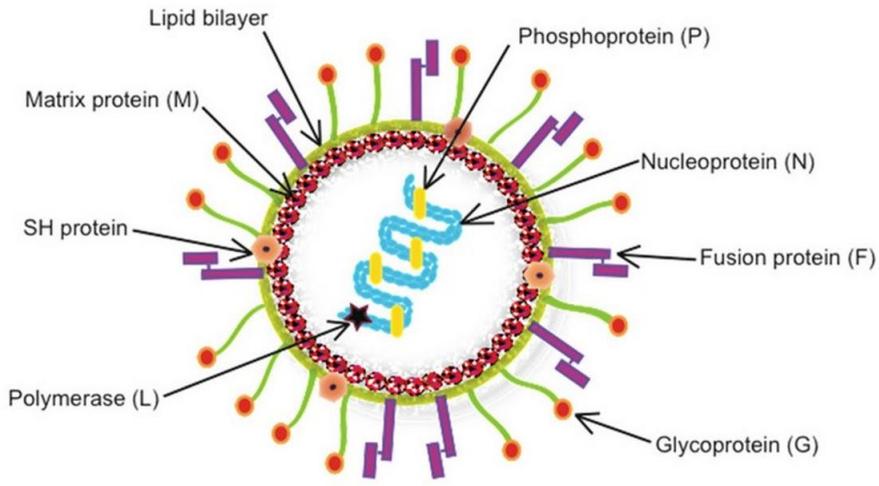
Recently, **the Jammu and Kashmir health department** has established a **specialized ICU ward** in Jammu to address concerns about a potential outbreak of **[Human Metapneumovirus \(HMPV\) cases](#)** detected in the country.

Key Points

- **Preparedness for Potential Outbreak:**
 - The ward is centrally heated, equipped with eight ventilator-supported beds, and provides a 24x7 oxygen supply.
 - Doctors have reassured the public that **HMPV is not a new pathogen** and is **not causing a widespread outbreak**.
 - Describing it as a **[mild upper respiratory disease](#)**, Doctors highlighted that only six cases have been detected in the country so far, and there is no cause for panic.
- **Enhanced Readiness Measures:**
 - The administration has held meetings to review the situation and ensure sufficient facilities are in place.
 - The Gandhinagar government hospital's **fully operational oxygen plant**, with a **capacity of 22,000 liters per minute**, supports preparedness.
 - In addition to the ICU ward, the hospital offers 100 oxygen-supported beds, sufficient concentrators, and various types of oxygen cylinders.

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)

- **Discovery:** It was **discovered in 2001** by researchers in **the Netherlands**. It causes acute respiratory infections, similar to **flu and [Covid-19](#)**.
- **Presence:** It is not limited to **China** and is found **all over the world**. It is clubbed as a **[common respiratory pathogen](#)**. It does **not have a vaccine**.
- **Symptoms:** **Cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose**, and **wheezing**, which typically resolve within **2-5 days**.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** **Children, the elderly**, and those with **weakened immune systems** are most at risk of complications like **[pneumonia](#)**.
- **Transmission:** HMPV spreads through **close contact** or by **touching contaminated surfaces**.
- **Seasonality:** It commonly circulates during **winter and spring**, along with other respiratory infections like **[Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\)](#)** and **[influenza](#)**.
 - HMPV belongs to the **Pneumoviridae family**, which includes **RSV, [measles](#), and mumps viruses**.
- **Severity:** While most HMPV cases are mild, a **small percentage (5-16%)** may develop into severe conditions like **bronchiolitis or pneumonia**.



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